

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board  
**Market Trends and Oversight Committee**

August 12, 2011  
**Minutes**

**WIB Members Present**

Joe Crowe  
Janet Ludden  
Joe Stratig  
Dan Strittmater

**Members Absent**

Patricia Brady  
Toni Carter EA  
Amy Filice  
Trixie Golberg  
Lee Helgen  
Dennis Johnson  
Paul Nelson EA

**Staff/Guests Present**

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB CEO  
Kate Raleigh, WIB Staff  
Wayne Young, Workforce Solutions  
Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions

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**Call to Order**

Dan Strittmater called the meeting to order at 10:07 am.

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**Approve June Market Trends and Oversight Committee Minutes**

**Motion** made by Janet Ludden with second by Joe Stratig to approve the June minutes as presented.

**Motion carried.**

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**Legislative Update**

Terry Zurn updated the committee on the government shutdown and how it affected Ramsey County. The County was able to fund all County departments through the month of July. Terry went through the funding for each program the WIB oversees; the WIA Adult program had a \$141k decrease, WIA Dislocated Workers had close to a \$400k decrease and the state Dislocated Worker program had a \$50k decrease. While the MN Youth Program is fully funded for the biennium, the WIA Youth program saw a decrease of \$230k. In response to these funding cuts, the number of vendors providing services has been decreased and Workforce Solutions is not filling open staff positions.

Mary Jo referred members to the MN Workforce Council Association's website for full legislative information.

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**Dislocated Worker/WIA Adult Program Outcomes**

Wayne Young presented the performance outcomes for Program Year 2010, which ended on June 30, 2011. The outcomes are from the MN Performs database and are for the Federal and State Dislocated Worker programs and the WIA Adult program. Ramsey County met or exceeded all goals set, which include measures related to credential achievement, entered and retained employment and average earnings.

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**Updates**

Blue Ribbon Commission

Janet Ludden reported on the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC). The last meeting was held on August 8 and the commission has developed recommendations for reducing disparities in unemployment. The recommendations will be presented to the WIB, City and County. An entity needs to be defined for next steps, implementation and accountability.

The draft of the Commission's report is in process and will be sent to the BRC members on August 22. BRC members will have the opportunity to comment twice on the report before it is sent out to the wider audience, including the WIB, the County and City. The Market Trends and Oversight Committee will see the report at the September 9 meeting. Members asked what action the WIB was taking on the document and if changes can be made once the WIB has reviewed it- staff will check with the BRC if they will accept comments back from the board.

### Healthcare Initiative

Mary Jo gave an update on the Healthcare Initiative (HI). Due to the state shutdown, work could not begin on the FastTRAC 3 project which delayed the FastTRAC 3 class from beginning in fall to now starting in January. Partners will attend the FastTRAC 3 kickoff meeting on August 31 where the healthcare project will be highlighted.

Work on the FastTRAC 2 project could continue because most of the funds were from the United Way. The first FastTRAC 2 cohort is finishing their summer program and eight students are continuing on in the program in fall. The second cohort of the FastTRAC 2 grant will begin their Medical Terminology class this fall- there are four grant students in this course.

The HI partners are working on a strategic plan for the project and next steps.

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### **Other**

Mary Jo distributed the Governor's Workforce Development Council's 2011 issues brief on closing the skills gap.

Janet Ludden shared that Employer Solutions, Inc. was awarded a Workforce and Job Training grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The intention of the project is to train Dislocated Workers and Veterans in areas affected by environmental concerns for jobs working to remediate the environmental issues in their neighborhoods. Targeted Saint Paul neighborhoods include the East Side, Frogtown and North End areas. The first class will begin core training in September. This is a two-year grant and referrals have to come through partners Workforce Solutions, Quality Career Services or Veteran Services. The goal is to recruit 150 individuals and train 90 with a placement of 88% of enrolled and 80% of graduates over the two years of the grant. Partners are working to get a flyer together for recruitment. Janet thanked the WIB for the letter of support for this project. The EPA regional administrator is coming to Saint Paul to announce the grant at a press conference on August 24 at Beacon Bluff at 10am.

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### **Meeting Adjourned**

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 11:11 am.

**Next Meeting-** September 9, 2011